

U.S. Application No. 09/680,371

Our Cas No. 09792909-4647

REMARKS

Claims 1-30. Claims 31-42 stand withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

In the Office Action of November 20, 2003, claims 1-30 were objected to for informalities and grammatical errors. Claims 1-13 have been amended in order to cure this objection, and claims 14-30 have been canceled.

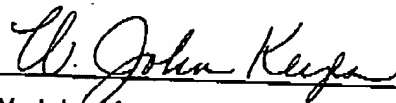
Claims 1-10 were rejected on being not patentably distinct from the subject matter claimed in commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,242,116 ('116). Although Applicants disagree, in order to expedite prosecution, enclosed is a Terminal Disclaimer to cure this ground rejection.

Claims 11-13 were rejected on being not patentably distinct from the subject matter claimed in commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,440,585 ('585). Although Applicants disagree, in order to expedite prosecution, enclosed is a second Terminal Disclaimer to cure this ground of rejection.

The rejection of claims 14-30 on being not patentably distinct from the subject matter of commonly owned patents '116 and '585 is now moot in light of the cancellation of said claims.

Regarding Japanese Priority Application P11-285254, enclosed is a copy of the return receipt postcard showing receipt of same by the USPTO on February 14, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Keyes, Ph.D.
Registration No. 54,218
Agent for Applicant

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080

Attorney Customer Number: 026263
Telephone: 312-876-8000
Facsimile: 312-876-7934